

NEWS AND NOTES

December 2010



Let's Move!, in association with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is challenging school nutrition professionals, chefs, students, parents, and interested community members to create tasty, healthy, exciting new recipes for school lunch menus across the country. Participants will form teams and develop, document, and prepare at least one healthy recipe in one of three categories (whole grains, dark green and orange vegetables, or dry beans and peas). Their creations will be served in school cafeterias and rated by students. Fifteen semi-finalist teams will have their recipe evaluated by a panel of judges during events held at their school. The top three teams will compete in a national cook-off to determine the grand prize winner!

The deadline for recipe submissions is December 30, 2010. For further information about the Recipes for Healthy Kids Challenge, please visit contest Web site: <http://recipesforkidschallenge.com/>

National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) Research Explores Whether Nutrition Information at Point of Selection in High Schools Affects Entrée Choices

A study was conducted to determine if posting nutritional information for entrees at the point of selection in high schools influenced student meal choices. Findings indicated that when schools provided healthy options, students were more likely to select healthful food. Attention to the levels of calories and fat in the menu offerings helped influence high school student purchases.

A detailed article of the study is in the *NFSMI Update*, Volume 15, Number 3. *The NFSMI Update*, can be accessed from NFSMI website: www.nfsmi.org. To subscribe to NFSMI Newsletters, click on Subscribe to Our Newsletters in upper blue bar; then click on *NFSMI Update*.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program - Grant Update

Applications for the 2011-2012 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) grant will be available in late spring of 2011. Section 19 of the National School Lunch Act requires that elementary schools, with the highest free and reduced price enrollment, be given priority for participation in the FFVP. In Michigan, schools chosen to participate in 2010-2011 were at or above 72% free or reduced price

enrollment. All information about the 2011-2012 grant application will be posted on our website at a later date.

For general information about the FFVP, go to: www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition. Click on Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

Online Tool to Look at School Local Wellness Policies

The Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University recently released the new WellSAT (Wellness School Assessment Tool), an online evaluation of school wellness policies. Actual language from school wellness policies was used to develop a fifty item scoring system. School wellness policies are evaluated for nutrition education and promotion, school meals, and competitive foods, in addition to physical activity and education. A scorecard is generated from the evaluation that links the user to resources that can be used to improve specific parts of the school wellness policy. WellSAT is the first instrument of its kind, providing a quantitative assessment that can be used to track progress.

Although this tool is not a requirement, it can be used to identify areas of school wellness policies that may need to be updated. The Rudd Center's WellSAT is available at: www.wellsat.org.

Summer Food Service Program 2011

The Michigan Department of Education is seeking sponsors to operate a free meal program for children during the summer. Every school day you protect the health and education of your students by providing them with healthy school meals. However, what happens to your students during the summer time? In Michigan, only about 15% of the needy children who receive free or reduced price meals in eligible areas during the school year receive similar meals during the summer.

For more information about becoming a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) site or sponsor, review the SFSP website and complete the potential sponsor questionnaire at: www.michigan.gov/sfsp by March 31, 2011, or contact Gloria Zunker at 517-373-3347.

Local Educational Agency Review System (LEARS) – Verification Summary Report

The LEARS - Verification Summary Report will be available to enter verification data on January 15, 2011. The deadline to submit data is March 1, 2011. LEARS is available at: www.michigan.gov/meis. Scroll down to the Child Nutrition Programs, and click on LEARS-Verification Summary Report. Questions regarding verification or LEARS may be directed to: MDE-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov. Be sure to include the name of your school and/or agreement number, along with a phone number where you can be reached.

Food Safety Inspection Requirements for Participants in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program

The final ruling for Food Safety Federal regulations require that each school must now obtain at least two food safety inspections each school year. Inspections must be conducted by a state or local government agency responsible for food safety inspections. Schools must post, in a publicly visible location, the most recent food safety inspection report and release a copy of the report to the public upon request.

For more information go to:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/final/2009-09-02.pdf>.

For specific policy memos related to School Safety Inspections go to:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/policy.htm>.

Coordinated Review Effort (CRE) and Additional Administrative Review (AAR) News

The review staff from the School Nutrition Training and Programs unit is currently scheduling CRE and ARR Reviews for School Year 2010-2011. MDE has posted a list of schools scheduled for a review, along with a review checklist at: www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition. Scroll down to *Compliance Reviews* and click on *Coordinated Review Effort*.

Monthly Meal Count Claims Can No Longer Be Combined

Beginning May 2011, monthly meal count claims must be submitted separately, regardless of the number of days the School Meals Program operated. Meal count claims can only be submitted for the month they were served.

In the past, meal counts for May/June and August/September could be combined. In 2011 May, June, August, and September claims must be filed separately. The June claim form will automatically be available if needed. July and August claim forms will be available if participation for those months was approved in CNAP for 2011.

For more information about monthly meal claims refer to Administrative Policy No. 3 School Year 2010-2011 at the following link:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Administrative_Policy_3_Deadlines_329259_7.doc.